



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

MEETING MINUTES

West Hartford Clean Energy Commission

December 13, 2017

7:00 PM

Rm 422

1. Roll Call - 7:05 PM

Member	Present	Alternates	Present
Catherine Diviney	X	Robert Palmer	
Chris Nelson	X	Dave Mello	X
Joe Campanella		James Capella	
Bernie Pelletier	X		
Max DuBuisson	X		
Total	(3 needed for quorum)		
Additional Attendees	Matt Macunas, Alex Rodriguez, Will Taylor, Gary Bent, Jeanne Grandy, Mike Winterfield, Dan Tavelli, and Bonnie MacFarland		

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. November 13, 2017 Minutes - Approved

3. Communications/Administration

- a. CPACE business outreach letter - preliminary response
 - Green Bank was pleased to receive 3 responses and is following up
 - Over 20 letters were returned pointing out the difficulty of finding the proper address and addressee.
- b. CWA Accelerator workshops – town staff invites on hold
 - Second accelerator was held in North Haven - discussion about the end of the Clean Energy Communities programs due to budget cuts. HES, CPACE, and SBEA will continue – although some support and funding will be reduced. CEC staff has been let go with no preliminary notice to the towns. We are left with unredeemable points
- c. WH-CEC google group
 - This is up and running. Catherine and Chris will make certain that Yahoo has the chance to move over – but won't do that automatically.

4. Ongoing Business

- a. Legrand Tour recap
 - Cappella, Diviney, Mello, Campanella, and Pelletier toured the LeGrand plant in West Hartford. LeGrand has an extensive sustainability program and has made large strides towards reducing energy use, water use, and waste products. In addition they have a 500KW Bloom fuel cell installation that supplies the majority of their power at reduced cost. While the fuel cells use natural gas they do so at 60% efficiency (vs. 30 to 40% for power plants) and thus reduce aggregate demand.
 - We also discussed potential collaboration with WH town/schools
 - Photos posted on website
- b. 100PercentCT project update
 - Milford had an introductory meeting and Bernie Pelletier shared preliminary energy numbers with their clean energy group

- At the time of the meeting the Simsbury Microgrid project was still viable – but at the last minute the Simsbury School District decided to pursue a fuel cell alternative to the Community Microgrid proposed by PACE.
- c. Fracking waste educational seminar – Jan 10, 7 PM, Council Chambers Rm 314
- Outreach plan discussed – flyers, lawn signs, and email postings with outreach beginning immediately. Gary Bent invited Ben Wenograd via email.
 - Gary Bent had previously presented the proposal to the Town Council and recommended that it be added to their agenda.
- d. Energy Plan
- Year-end budget issues continue to take precedence over completion of the plan.

5. New Business

a. West Hartford Emergency Plan

- The CWA Accelerator has emphasized that energy resilience is ever more crucial in light of changing weather patterns and grid vulnerability. In reviewing the Town's emergency plan it became clear that it is nearly 20 years old and in need of updating – both to address changes in personnel as well as changes to the emergency diesel backup systems.
- Catherine will invite Town Manager – Matt Hart – to attend WH_CEC and share perspective on “integrated planning”. Resiliency, POCD, Emergency, Energy, Sustainable CT, etc.

b. POCD Update (Matt Macunas)

- West Hartford's current POCD (Plan of Conservation and Development) covers the period 2009 to 2019 and the Clean Energy Commission is recommending that energy and sustainability issues be incorporated into the new plan due to be completed during 2018 and adopted in 2019.

c. CT Clean Energy Communities – Bright Idea grants funding eliminated

- The CEC agreed to write a letter to the utilities that expresses both our concern about this sudden change in direction as well as stressing the need for some of the legally mandated information to be maintained (e.g. aggregate energy data).

d. WH-CEC Letter - energy efficiency/heat pump/capital projects (Jeff and Bernie?).

- A draft letter to the town has been drafted. This letter requests the town to examine use of heat pumps in any renovation and update to HVAC equipment. In many cases the new technology allows greater efficiency and flexibility than older style equipment.

e. Project Sword

- China is refusing to accept recycling. It is not clear whether this ban is more serious than previous ones.

f. RecycleCT grant

- Awarded to Morley School for stainless recycle table/station.

g. Muni Energy Manager Meeting organized by DEEP (Jeff Howard & Kerri Enright)

- Catherine attended 12/13 along with Hamden, New Haven, Middletown, Hartford, and Bridgeport. DEEP interested in knowing where they might assist towns. Productive meeting will likely continue.

6. Adjournment - 8:55 PM